

GRADUATE NEWS

MAY 2016

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: MEET ABDULLAH AL MAMUN!



Since Abdullah Al Mamun started his PhD in 2009, he has authored 17 refereed journal articles, presented 16 conference proceedings, given 25 poster presentations and 12 oral presentations, and submitted 10 abstracts. He reflects on his incredible feats weeks away from the completion of his PhD with a smile. "It didn't really feel like work..." says Mamun in reference to his 129-page dissertation piece which equates to a small portion of the above works. Major portions of his scientific contributions resulted from his pro bono research for his advisor Dr. Abdelmageed Elmustafa. That sentiment about his research, the pure enjoyment he derives from doing it, along with the guidance of Dr. Elmustafa and access to Virginia's network of university research facilities are what helped him to push so far ahead in his studies.

Mamun earned his Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering in 1999 from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology. After graduating, he wished to pursue higher education in America, but

political issues temporarily prevented him from coming to the United States. He secured a position as a faculty member at Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology and later worked in supply chain for Unilever. In 2005, he earned his MBA from the Institute of Business Administration of Dhaka University. He says this education helped him greatly. As a researcher, it is easy to be swept away in the details. His diverse background allows him to maintain a broader perspective with set goals. In 2006, he received several offers for enrollment and accepted one from Florida Atlantic University. There he pursued his Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering focusing on Helicopter Dynamics. In 2009, he came to Old Dominion University to continue his research.

His dissertation is titled "Thin Film Studies Toward Improving the Performance of Accelerator Electron Sources." His research within is relevant in several seemingly unrelated areas such as radiation therapy, exploring the fundamental nature of matter, semiconductor processing, and military equipment. In addition, his research entails characterizing mechanical properties of materials in the nanometer scale, an incomprehensibly small scale. A nanometer is one billionth of a meter. To put that into perspective, a human hair is 80,000 - 100,000 nanometers wide. He aims to make improvements on laser technology and the electron gun which will have implications around the world.

Mamun highlights again what has driven him to work so consistently for seven years. "That's a really long time" he laughs. His dedication to sci-

entific research, and the great people at ODU and Jefferson Lab made the perfect combination. Much credit is owed to ODU and Jefferson Lab for all the logistics support they provided and their state of the art research facilities which allowed him to conduct his research as he saw fit.

Above all, he acknowledges that everyone's goals are different. In order to be "truly" successful, outside of all the accolades, Mamun stresses the importance of doing what you love. "If you feel good doing something, just do it. Also, accept failure with great respect as we often learn more from our failures than our successes."

DID YOU KNOW?

Registration for the fall and summer semesters is open! Register now to secure your spot and pay later.

If you have any questions, please e-mail:
officeofgradstudies@odu.edu.

DATES AND DEADLINES

May 19, 2016
GSO Social @ Cogan's
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Cogan's Pizza on Colley Ave.

June 17, 2016
GSO Social @ Cogan's
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Cogan's Pizza on Colley Ave.

July 15, 2016
GSO Social @ Cogan's
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Cogan's Pizza on Colley Ave.

August 19, 2016
GSO Social @ Cogan's
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Cogan's Pizza on Colley Ave.

CONGRATULATIONS!

The Office of Graduate Studies is pleased to announce this year's recipients of the University Doctoral Mentoring Award, the Excellence in Graduate Teaching Award, and the Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Awards.



Dr. Alex Gurevich is the recipient of the Excellence in Graduate Teaching Award. Dr. Gurevich has been a professor in the Physics Department in the College of Sciences at ODU since 2011. He has mostly taught classes at the graduate level. He is described as being able to "combine mathematical theory with practical applications very effectively." These great qualities have been noticed by faculty as well as students, some even saying he is "one of the best professors at Old Dominion University" and "the best I have had as a student."



Dr. Ghaith Rabadi is the recipient of the Doctoral Mentoring Award. Dr. Rabadi has been a committed member of Old Dominion University since 2002 in the Batten College of Engineering and Technology. He has mentored 12 PhD students over the past 13 years and is currently advising five. He has co-authored 20 journal articles, 29 conference papers, 7 book chapters, and 7 abstracts with PhD students. He has also served on several dissertation committees both within and external to the Engineering Management and Systems Engineering Department. According to a former student: "Ghaith's patient and steady guidance was the key to my success at Old Dominion University."



Elizabeth Rasnick is the recipient of the Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant (Classroom) Award. She is a PhD Student in the Information Technology Track of the PhD Program in the Strome College of Business. For the last 5 years, she has taught IT 150G, a course required for most undergraduates. She began teaching it when it was a new course and was very instrumental in "putting the course together" and "presenting it in an appealing fashion." She has taught mega-sections, classes at the Virginia Beach Higher Ed Center, and online classes. Students and faculty alike have praised her as nothing less than an outstanding teacher.



Amit Kulkarni is the recipient of the Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant (Laboratory) Award. He gives the introductory lectures for all the experiments, prepares the set-ups, and works with students throughout to ensure all experiments are conducted properly. He also manages a great amount of equipment, ensuring proper calibration and storage. In student opinion surveys, Amit has received a remarkable 4.22/5 overall. Amit earned his master's degree at Old Dominion University and is now pursuing his PhD in Mechanical Engineering.

ARE YOU INTERESTED?

The Graduate Student Organization is back in action! If you would like to learn more about the organization and get involved, please e-mail Eric White: emwhite@odu.edu for more information. See you at Cogan's this summer!

DID YOU KNOW?

The Office of Graduate Studies is now on Facebook! Through our Facebook page we will provide quick announcements and answer any quick questions. Please like us at: <http://fb.com/ODUGS>.

CONGRATULATIONS
ODU SPRING 2016
GRADUATES!

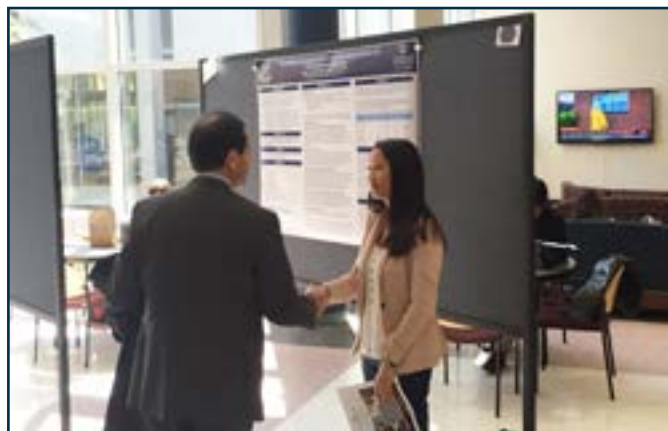
Find GRADUATE NEWS online at www.odu.edu/graduatestudies.

ODU graduate student Eric White compiled and edited this newsletter with help from Dr. Robert Wojtowicz and Missy Barber in the Office of Graduate Studies.

You can contact Eric at: emwhite@odu.edu.

Office of Graduate Studies

GRADUATE RESEARCH ACHIEVEMENT DAY ~ APRIL 14, 2016



President Broderick learning from the Health Sciences Dept.



Big Blue intensely studies the work of Craig Morehead

ADVANCED DEGREE LUNCHEON



Photo: Erica Howell

The Advanced Degree Luncheon is an luncheon sponsored by the Alumni Association and the Office of Graduate Studies. It is held every May and December in honor of the graduates of Old Dominion University's Advanced Degree Programs. This semester's luncheon had three speakers who shared their experiences with their fellow classmates and faculty.

Cheng Luo (pictured) was the first student speaker. He told the story of how he came to ODU. In 2006, Luo saw professor Carl Boyd in China wearing an ODU shirt. Having been interested in studying in America, Luo decided to ask him what ODU was all about. Boyd's answer was detailed enough for them to estab-

lish a lasting friendship. They kept in touch and, after traveling all over China in 2008, Luo began his studies at ODU in 2010. Six years later, Luo fondly recounts his time at Old Dominion University, having started as an undergraduate studying international business and German to now graduating with his MBA. He describes his experience as "colorful" and that he has enjoyed being a civic scholar. Having identified a passion to eliminate food waste, he plans to pursue his PhD in supply chain management next year.

Luisa Diaz-Kope was the second student speaker. She is also a two-time ODU alum. She graduated in 2008 with her BSBA and in 2011 with her MPA. She walks on Friday with the completion of her PhD in Public Administration and Urban Studies. She described her experiences as the most challenging yet rewarding ones of her life. She tells of her first day in the PhD program with a smile. Her first day "went from excitement to sheer terror" when she received the syllabus. "We're not in Kansas anymore, Luisa," she thought, referring to the Wizard of Oz. Still, she made it through crediting much of her success to her support system.

She said the experience "profoundly changed her" and that she feels enriched going forward as a scholar.

Guilherme Manachini Damata was the last of the student speakers, representing a group of students from Brazil. They left behind their jobs, family, and friends in pursuit of an advanced degree. It was not long before they realized their lifestyles were not the only things undergoing change. Many of their preconceptions were changed. They gradually became more tolerant and understanding. "The space occupied by all these things we left behind was filled with knowledge and amazing experiences." He also explained how the world feels smaller now, but more complex. Their experiences here at ODU have made all of them more excited for the future to come.

A new tradition was also added to the luncheon this year. Each graduate attendee received a challenge coin. Though the origin of the coin is unclear, today it serves to identify members of an institution and is received as an additional "job well done." Congratulations to all the spring 2016 advanced degree recipients!

Find GRADUATE NEWS online at www.odu.edu/graduatestudies.

ODU graduate student Eric White compiled and edited this newsletter with help from Dr. Robert Wojtowicz and Missy Barber in the Office of Graduate Studies.

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